From:	Jodie Siegel
To:	City Council; Devereux, Jan; Dennis Carlone; McGovern, Marc; Kelley, Craig
Subject:	HP resolution
Date:	Thursday, April 19, 2018 2:07:48 PM

Dear Jan, Dennis, Craig and all the Cambridge City Councillors;

I am writing to express my opinion about the resolution up for consideration that calls for Cambridge "to end its contracts" with Hewlett-Packard (HP) until, according to the organizers, HP "ends their support for violence against and oppression of Palestinians, deportations and surveillance of immigrants in the U.S., and oppression and surveillance of those currently and formerly incarcerated in the U.S." The initiative is part of a larger global BDS movement that is, in significant part, dedicated to Israel's delegitimization as the Jewish state. Groups backing this resolution have offered other justifications for the HP boycott, but it remains clear that this effort is designed primarily to target and delegitimize Israel.

I reject this effort to single out Israel for demonization and am concerned about the city of Cambridge and its public image. This resolution will have implications beyond Hewlett-Packard and, if adopted, would tarnish the reputation of our city.

Do not abdicate your responsibilities as our elected officials to an interest group whose purpose is to demonize Israel. Any resolution of this kind deserves a full and fair public hearing, including inviting experts and interested parties to weigh in openly before action is taken.

Singling out Israel and HP, among all the nations, companies, and conflicts in the world, and holding them to a unique ethical standard raises troubling issues about the Cambridge City Council. Thousands of American companies that are working overseas and engaged in transactions that can be tied to questionable human rights practices; including numerous companies with Cambridge contacts.

It would be one thing if the Cambridge City Council elected to adopt a foreign policy that it applied without prejudice to nations and companies around the world. However, in this instance, the Council is overlooking scores of other situations and electing to support dubious and largely unexamined claims against Israel made by an outside organization.

The BDS movement is detrimental to achieving peace in the Middle East. The establishment of a Palestinian state is a goal we share, but it will not be realized by extreme and deceptive claims that deny the hard reality on the ground. There are many people who are working to bridge the divide between Israelis and Palestinians. Boycotts, like the one under consideration, undermine these peacemakers, fuel polarization, and strengthen the hands of those who reject co-existence.

I urge you to reject the passage of this prejudicial and inequitable resolution.

Respectfully,

Jodie Siegel
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